

REMARKS

Claims 200 and 202-212 are pending.

Claims 200, 202-204, 206, and 209-212 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,223,726) ("Yamada"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 200 recites, *inter alia*, a "method of forming a *photosensor* comprising ... excavating a trench within a semiconductor substrate...." (emphasis added)

By contrast, Yamada teaches forming trenches in a *charge transfer region* of a CCD imager. (Yamada, 2:25-36) Yamada does not disclose, teach, or suggest excavating a trench to form a photosensor. Indeed, the n-type conductivity region of Yamada's pn junction photodiode remains entirely intact, without any excavated portion. (Yamada, FIG. 4(c) and 5:1-4) That Yamada depicts trenches in a charge transfer region of a CCD imager is immaterial because a charge transfer region is not a photosensor.

Moreover, incorporating the trenches of Yamada's charge transfer region into a photosensor would not have been obvious because the charge transfer region of a CCD imager and the photosensor perform substantially different functions and, typically, contain substantially different structures. More specifically, the photosensor converts incident photons into an electric charge and the charge transfer region transfers the charge in a particular direction. Because Yamada does not disclose, teach, or suggest a "method of forming a photosensor comprising ... excavating a trench...", the rejection of claim 200 should be withdrawn the claim allowed.

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Claims 202-204, 206, and 209-212 depend from claim 200 and are allowable along with claim 200 for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 200 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejection of claims 202-204, 206, and 209-212 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

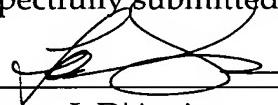
Claims 205, 207, and 208 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of admitted prior art. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 205, 207, and 208 depend from claim 200 and are allowable along with claim 200 for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 200 and on their own merits. Therefore, the rejection of claims 205, 207, and 208 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, the Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests that it be passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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